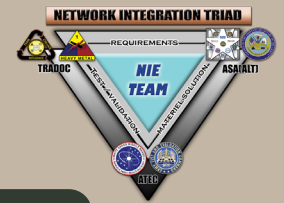# Network Integration Evaluation (NIE)

What is the NIE?

The Network Integration Evaluation (NIE) is the first in a series of semi-annual evaluations designed to integrate and mature the Army's tactical network. The exercise is a six-week June and July 2011 event conducted by a Triad including the Brigade Modernization Command, the Army Test and Evaluation Command and Program Executive Office Integration. It will involve all 3,800 Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. Its primary purpose is to conduct parallel Limited User Tests of several Army programs of record, with a secondary purpose of less formally evaluating developmental and emerging network capabilities. NIE will also assess non-networked capabilities. The 2011 exercise is the first of this type of combined test and evaluation, and demonstrates the Army's holistic focus to integrate network components simultaneously in one operational venue.

Network Integration Evaluation (NIE)

What the NIE means for the Army:

It's a new way of doing business – a fundamental change in how we deliver capabilities to our Soldiers. The Army has adopted a strategy that will align the tactical network to the ARFORGEN process through Capability Sets that will enhance vertical and horizontal connectivity and provide an integrated network baseline from the static Tactical Operations Center (TOC) to the dismounted Soldier. Network Integration Evaluations are key enablers to executing this strategy.

What's different about the NIE from other Evaluations?

Today (2011), the Army is making significant changes to how it evaluates capability solution candidates. This "adaptive" evaluation concept:

- Conducts integrated evaluations of capabilities rather than discreet evaluations.

- Doubles the frequency of evaluations (two per year), aligning with Army personnel rotation cycles to enhance predictability in scheduling, production and resourcing for network and capability stakeholders.

- Triples the size of the integrated evaluations (BN to BCT).

- Increases the number of capability solution candidates from 5 candidates in August 2010 to 30 candidates in June 2011.

- Increases the scope of integrated evaluations. The 2011 area of operations covers more than 8,000 Sq. kms of variable desert and mountainous terrain vice the 1,000 Sq. kms used during 2010 testing.

NIE Objectives:

A. Complete the formal program of record evaluations.
B. Establish the process for evaluating new technologies for the Network in order to assess, acquire and insert solutions more quickly.
C. Establish an Integrated Network Baseline that will enable evaluation of the network, the Theater Provided Equipment (TPE) network and emerging or developmental network capabilities.
D. Establish an operational model of the Network systems and software used in theater.
E. Identify Network vulnerabilities.

http://www.bctmod.army.mil